



**Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
1115 Bridge to Reform (BTR) Waiver Amendment
Tribal Health Program Reimbursement for Uncompensated Care
Teleconference October 22, 2013
Questions and Responses**

1. Can DHCS add the administrative fee that the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB) charges to Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities to the amendment so those fees are reimbursed under the waiver?

DHCS Response: Under Federal rules, the CRIHB can function as either the billing agent for the provider or an agent of the state but not both. In this case, CRIHB is the billing agent for the provider of this program. The CRIHB will bill the provider for administrative fees related to the costs of processing the billing and cannot claim any Federal Financial Participation (FFP) related to the administrative expenditures for this uncompensated care program. Therefore, we cannot add an admin fee to the waiver for this program.

2. Are substance abuse counselors covered under this amendment?

DHCS Response: Under this program, we reimburse for Medi-Cal primary care services as set out in the state plan and the eliminated optional benefits as specified in the waiver.

3. Is this the CRIHB Care/Option or is this a different program all together?

DHCS Response: The current amendment to the 1115 waiver allows the state to make supplemental payments to IHS tribal health programs to account for uncompensated costs of furnishing primary care services to low income IHS-eligible individuals as well as make supplemental payments for uncompensated costs of furnishing services that were eliminated from the state plan pursuant to state plan amendment 09-001 to IHS eligible individuals enrolled in the Medi-Cal program. This amendment is set to expire on December 31, 2013.

DHCS' proposed amendment would permit the state to make uncompensated care payments for optional services eliminated from the state plan provided by IHS health programs to IHS-eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries. This waiver amendment has an effective date of January 1, 2014 and an end date of December 31, 2014.

4. DHCS acknowledges receipt of letter received from Greenville Rancheria in support of this waiver amendment.

DHCS Response: Thank you for your letter of support.